

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 PA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SAB-02
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FM USDEL SECRETARY GRENADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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S/PRS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: UNITED STATES STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA JUNE 15

FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT AS DELIVERED BY SECRETARY AT OASG
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15. US STATEMENT FOLLOWED PANAMIANIAN STATEMENT
WHICH IS TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL.

BEGIN TEXT:
SINCE SUBMITTING THEIR SECOND REPORT TO THIS ASSEMBLY
LAST YEAR, THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE
ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW
TREATY TO REPLACE THE 1903 CONVENTION.

IT IS NOT OUT INTENTION TO REVIEW THE HISTORY AND
RESURRECT OLD GRIEVANCES OR REOPEN OLD WOUNDS. INSTEAD WE
APPROACH THIS QUESTION IN THE SPIRIT THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED
THIS ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS
STATEMENT REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
ON THE PRESENT STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS. AS PRESIDENT
CARTER EMPHASIZED IN HIS PAN AMERICAN DAY SPEECH IN
WASHINGTON, THE EARLY COMPLETION OF THE NEW PANAMA
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CANAL TREATY IS A HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVE OF HIS FOREIGN
POLICY.

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS IN RECENT MONTHS DEMONSTRATE
THE COMMITMENT OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO THIS OBJECTIVE.

-- THE MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND

THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 31 DURING WHICH THEY REAFFIRMED THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF FEBRUARY 1974.

-- A ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN PANAMA IN MID-FEBRUARY DURING WHICH THE TWO SIDES HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO IMPORTANT AND DIFFICULT OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

-- A MEETING IN MID-MARCH IN WASHINGTON DURING WHICH THE NEGOTIATORS CONTINUED THE PROCESS COMMENCED IN PANAMA THE MONTH BEFORE.

-- AN INTENSIVE ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCING MAY 9 IN WASHINGTON WHICH IS CONTINUING NOW. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES SINCE JANUARY HAVE FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

-- THE DURATION OF THE TREATY.

-- THE NATURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL OPERATE THE CANAL DURING THE LIFE OF THE TREATY.

-- THE STATUS OF THE AMERICAN AND PANAMANIAN EMPLOYEES OF THAT ENTITY.

-- AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE LANDS AND WATERS WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE CANAL.

-- PROVISIONS TO ASSURE THAT THE CANAL REMAINS PERMANENTLY SECURE AND OPEN TO THE SHIPS OF ALL NATIONS ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS.

WE BELIEVE THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. THE PRESENT DISCUSSIONS ARE FOCUSED ON THE DETAILS OF THESE SUBJECTS EACH OF WHICH MUST BE LINKED TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER IN ANY FINAL AGREEMENT THAT IS REACHED. IN ADDITION, OUR NEGOTIATORS WILL BE ADDRESSING ECONOMIC ISSUES, A SUBJECT WHICH UNTIL THIS TIME HAS NOT BEEN UNDER FORMAL DISCUSSION.

THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR NEGOTIATORS DURING THE PRESENT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IS TO COME TO AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE OF THESE ISSUES. ONCE THESE AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED AND THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE NEGOTIATORS' WORK, THE PROCESS OF TREATY DRAFTING WILL COMMENCE. WHILE ONE CANNOT PREDICT WITH ACCURACY WHEN A NEW TREATY WILL BE READY FOR THE INITIATION OF RATIFICATION PROCEDURES IN BOTH COUNTRIES, WE HOPE THAT AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED THIS YEAR, PERHAPS BEFORE THE END OF THE SUMMER. END TEXT.

VANCE

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